GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3574
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
PALESTINE ISSUE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that Indian official stand on the Palestinian cause has been sufficiently diluted from our original stand by the present Government; and

(b) if not, the rationale behind encouraging arms tie-up with Israel Government at a time when Palestinian issue has not yet been settled by Israelis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) No, Sir. India`s support for the Palestinian cause continues to be historical, consistent and unwavering. The Government have strongly condemned the recent Israeli air attacks against the offices of President Arafat and other Palestinian institutions.

(b) India procures arms from a number of countries, including Israel to meet its defence requirements. This does not, in any way, dilute India`s close relationship with the Arab world and our steadfast support to the Palestinian cause.